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By M.I. BLACKWELL Of the News-Democrat

CAHOKIA — State agencies concerned with the dangerously high level of chemicals found in Dead Creek will now focus their attention on the long-term environmental impact of the contamination, its extent and determining who is responsible.

That is phase two of a three-part plan to remedy a problem that may have existed for more than a decade but wasn't discovered until May. Phase one involved taking the samples of dirt and water and fencing in the creek.

'Today, work crews with the Division of Land and Pollution Control, a branch of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. were expected to begin assembling drilling equipment to take samples of noil and ground water surrounding the creek area.

This division will develop a program to determine the extent of the pollution in the affected area, as well as north and south of .1" the area of immediate concern." according to a statement issued by the IEPA at a news conference Wednesday in Cahokia. "Its, primary objective will be to establish the exact perimeter by a campling program.

The following areas are to be sampled under phase two:

 East and west of the ditch from Queeny Avenue to Judith Lane.

 North and south of that area from Queeny beyond the industrial complex and from Judith to the Mississipp River.

 Vegetation along both sides of the creek and nearby crops.

• Core sampling to delermine the extent. if any, of groundwater contamination.

IEPA officials would not speculate how long it may take to determine the extent of the contamination. Nor would they may how much a cleanup would cost. 🏠

"It's no overnight solution," said John Renkes, supervisor of the IEPA Emergency Response Unit. "We have no figures, nor are we shooting from the hip to guess ? the cleanup."

James Keity, an IEPA chemist with the Emergency Response Unit, said the cleanup would ... "fantastically expensive."

A 1/2 mile, 30-foot-wide section of Dead . Creek, that runs from Oveeny Avenue in Sauget to Judith Lane In Cahokia has been quarantined by the IEPA. Illinois Department of Transportation crews last week erected 7,000 feet of 4-foot snow fence around the area and posted "Keep Out" tigns. Certain sections of the creek have

been known to suddenly start smoldering and glowing.

long and runs east of illinois 3, is a former yards south of Judith Lane also revealed drainage ditch that empties into the Mississippi River.

Test results of soil from the creek in a a residential area, also will be sampled. Sauget show 1,600 to 17,800 parts per officials said. We're going all the way to million of PCBs (polychlorinated biphes the fiver Bolty said. We're going all the way to million of PCBs (polychlorinated biphes the fiver Bolty said. We're going all the way to million of PCBs decreases in the porticials are like in the chemicals southern half of the creek. PCB levels the fiver Bolty said.

Test results did reveal high levels of tool of the have prevented chemicals from metals in the bouthern part, with the have prevented chemicals from metals in the bouthern part, with the house of the filling tool. It has a filling tool of the creek phonous—12,000 ppm—was found sear of containing bout. If that are is found in the creek good to the north and Falling Springs the weeks. TEPA officials said the said is north and Falling Springs chemicals found in the creek good to the good on the cash is suspected of being a chemicals found in the creek good to the cash is suspected of being a

However, IEPA officials said the chemicals found in the creek pose to Road on the cash, is suspected of being a immediate health problem to residents to the chemical dump. It also will be tested with You have to get down there and rub your thetal derices before any digging begins. nose in it and rub some on your skin before 10 The Illinois attorney general's office to

found low levels of pesticides, but those did. not originate in Dead Creek, officials said.

Air monitoring will also continue in the

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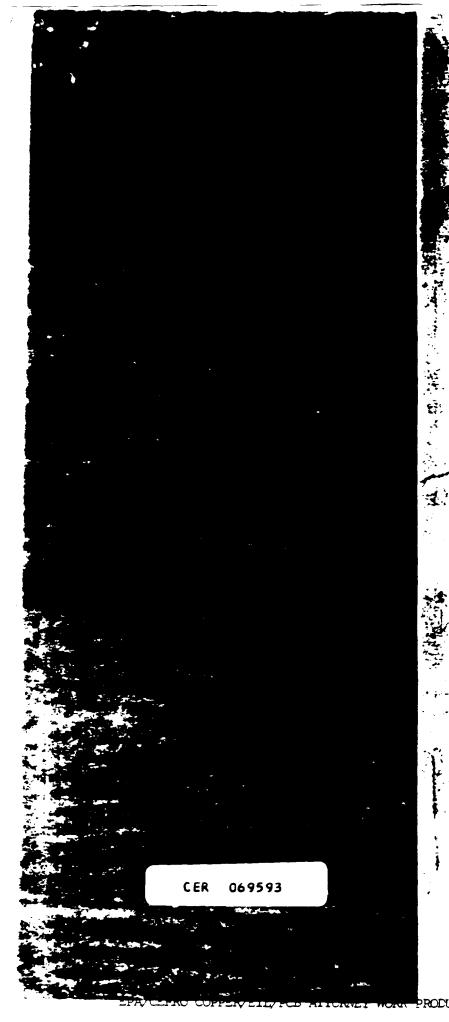
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The creek, which is about seven miles of Dirt samples taken from the creek 25 long and runs east of Illinois 3, is a former of bards south; of Judith Lane also revealed

it will have any effect," Keity said. I'm pitraulag suspected dumpers, who may be And test results on area water wells presponsible for the Chemicals found in the • creek. They refuse to disclose the names of Hthe Mispects. op 11-0-





Pete Lauman at edge of creek Wednesday

(Continued from Page IA)

"Only so much is traceable to one person," said Reed Neuman, an assistant attorney general. "We're hesitant to start naming names."

Cahokia city officials and residents attending the news conference who live in the vicinity of the creek expressed mixed reactions to the test results?

Residents have said the creek has been contaminated with the chemicals for possibly more than 12 years.

"At this point I think they are doing what they can do," said Cahokia Health Officer Tonie Townsend. "I'm glad something is being done. It may not be quick enough to suit a lot of people."

Meanwhile what am I supposed to do. sit there?" said Pete Lauman, the Cahokia resident whose complaints in May prompted officials to investigate the creek. "Am I going to go through this next spring?"

Lauman's property borders the creek. His prize terrier

died after it rolled in the ditch.
"I think it's terrible," said Donna Tammer, a Sauget resident who lives on Queeny Avenue, 14 blocks from the creek. "I think the damage is already done."

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